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him, and put him to death as a dangerous person. They accused him on pretence of blasphemy, but the true cause of their clamour was, lest the people should believe him, and the Romans should come and take away their name and nation. Hence, when their zealous cruelty was stripped of its guise, it appeared, that their fears were for their own cause, and not the cause of God. They likewise boasted among themselves, that none of the rulers had believed him; and the reason they would not, was, because no ruler would sacrifice his own private cause to the common cause of God among mankind; therefore, the publicans and harlots were nearer the kingdom than they were, and went in before them."

"This," said I, "could not be so much wondered at in that age of ignorance and bigotry; but in this enlightened age, when the clouds of superstition are daily vanishing, and men are releasing themselves from the yoke of tyranny, and asserting their native rights, if an eloquent person were commissioned by thee to preach the precepts of wisdom; they would, no doubt, gain converts." To this he answered with a smile, "Thy faith is great in the present enlightened age. But the Pharisees were as enlightened in their own eyes as the present generation: and laid the same accusation of ignorance and blindness against their fathers, for spilling the blood of the prophets, that we do against them for spilling the blood of Christ. But as custom makes a considerable impression on the human mind, it may be, that the magistracy and clergy might bear an attack with a tolerable degree of patience; but as landlords, usurers, and speculators, have not since the days of the prophets been generally sus-

pected for oppression, we may be assured, that to interfere with them would be as bad as to touch a nest of hornets."

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
H^AVING lately had the pleasure of looking through a large collection of valuable manuscripts, which treat in many parts of Irish manners, and customs, particularly during the reign of Queen Elizabeth; I found mention of several Irish exactions, of which I had not before heard, nor do I yet know their meaning, nor how they were collected. Their names are *Breyne-Balafs-Erick*, *Logh-Tavie*, and *Logh-Yempies*; all were in 1580, collected in the county of Antrim, and abolished by proclamation of the Lord Deputy, a few years afterwards. Perhaps some of your antiquarian correspondents, on your inserting this article, would furnish me with some particulars relative to their names, how they were collected, and why?

J.S.

Knockmor, June 12th, 1812.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DIALOGUE, ON SIGNING THE PROTESTANT PETITION.

(Continued from Vol. 3, page 451.)

N^ED. Neighbour Pat, I have purchased the Magazine, and am surprised to see the names of my intimate acquaintances there. I would not have thought it strange to have seen T., H., and P.'s names, who have little or no religion; but teachers of the flock, and others who profess to fear, love, and serve God, mingling with the worshippers of

images, to me appears inconsistent.

Pat. Dear Ned, I fear you are little acquainted with the Catholic belief; were you better informed respecting their faith, your intolerant opinion of their mode of worship would vanish. They believe in all the essentials of the Christian religion: would it then be fair to withhold their natural rights, because there is a shade of difference in the minor parts of their religious worship?

Ned. No; but they are under the influence of the Pope; and the Pope is under the influence of Bonaparte. Were they admitted to command our fleets, and our armies, our liberties might be in danger.

Pat. Were I sure your fears, which are only ideal, and imaginary, were not the effects of prejudice, I would endeavour to remove them. The Catholics have, in the most solemn manner, published to the world "That they utterly renounce, abjure, and deny, that the Pope of Rome, or any other foreign Prince, Prelate, State, or Potentate, hath, or ought to have, any temporal jurisdiction, power, superiority, or pre-eminence, directly or indirectly, within these realms. (See declaration according to the act of 1793.) I never understood that King George the III. had entered into holy orders; and we acknowledge him as head of our Church. The Pope claims no dominion in a temporal way. Bonaparte may rob him of his earthly inheritance, and confine him in the walls of a prison, but, like Paul of Tarsus, if he have the interest of his Master's kingdom at heart, he may refresh the church, though in bonds.

Ned. There is no end to their ambition: they would aspire to be members of parliament; and were

a few to get into places of trust, they would soon wriggle themselves into power; and then we will have a Popish parliament!!!

Pat. It is acknowledged that many among them are men of the first abilities; and if their wealth and population be as three is to two, why not admit them to a share in representing the owners of the land they cultivate, and the country they uphold and defend? Were we to send none but Catholic members, England will have a majority, while she sends more than five English for one Irish member to parliament.

Ballymena.

(To be Continued.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE amount of the National debt, in figures, on paper, is generally read with too much indifference, and want of reflection. Therefore, turning it into different views, and making it assume various forms and situations, so that its magnitude may make a greater impression on the mind, than reading over the figures, according to the numeration table, may be acceptable, or at least curious to some of your readers.

From these considerations, the following calculations were made. The money and measures are all calculated as Irish, and all fractions rejected.

THE NATIONAL DEBT, according to some authors, is at present £.1000000000000, or one Billion, equal to 879120879120 Guineas. Each Guinea weighing 128 grains, make 174428743 Cwt., equal to 8721437 tons. Consequently, it would require 8721437 horses, each carrying one ton, to remove it from one part of the kingdom to another. And it would require 17442 ships,